

**REMARKS**

The Examiner has sent a clarification to the Requirement for Information dated February 9, 2005.

In the clarification, the Examiner quotes a portion of page 4 of applicant's specification and states that a "complete reply to the request should include those web sites that the applicant has identified." (Office Action, April 5, 2006, p. 2.) Applicant responds as follows: Amazon.com's web site used a cookie to identify a buyer more than 1 year before the filing of the present application. The use of a cookie to identify a buyer is described in U.S. Patent Application No. 08/928,951, which was cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed by applicant on July 23, 1999.

The Examiner requests applicant "to identify those web auction web sites designed to [sic] which are programmed to automatically identify the buyer by receiving the buyer's identification." (Office Action, April 5, 2006.) Applicant is not aware of any prior art web auction web site that automatically identified a buyer.

With respect to the Examiner's request for identification of what is being improved, applicant responds as follows without admitting that applicant's invention is an "improvement" to an invention under 35 U.S.C. § 101, rather than an invention itself, or that 37 C.F.R. § 1.105(a)(vii) applies generally to any claim.

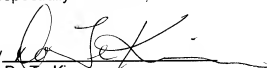
Applicant's claims are directed to a novel combination of elements that are neither taught nor suggested by the prior art. So, taken as a whole, applicant's claims are an improvement over prior techniques for placing a bid.

Applicant respectfully submits that the response of April 8, 2005 and this response are fully compliant with the Requirement for Information of February 9, 2005. As such, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its early allowance.

If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-8548.

Dated: July 5, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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